

BIOGRAPHY OF A MAN WHO NEVER LIVED—WAR DETECTIVE STORIES

FELLOWSHIP THE GREAT QUALITY LACKING IN ORGANIZED SOCIETY

J. B. Beresford Has Created a Character Who Tries to Learn What Is the Matter With the World—A Big Book

I AM glad that serious books are increasing in popularity. Doctor McFabre remarked as his eyes rested on a volume on my library table which bore the title, "W. E. Beresford, A Biography."

He said, "It is a great book, and one of the greatest qualities in it is the quiet, inquiring temper of the whole narrative. There is no attempt to dramatize."

"I suppose you were so deeply interested in the educational discussion in it that you missed the rest," said I. "But, as a matter of fact, it is a stimulating and suggestive study of the whole problem of human society."

"The doctor hadn't said it yet, but he has been wondering whether the Ford of the book is a kinsman of the Ford of the Bliver," said I. "He thinks it is a real biography, or a biography of a real man."

"That is something but a novel, doctor," said I, with a chuckle. "Maybe it is all right to camouflage books in such a way," he replied, "but I don't like false pretenses."

"Why, doctor, you surprise me," Perkins remarked. "You know that there are scores of great novels that masquerade as biographies and histories, from 'Robinson Crusoe' down."

"The clergyman settled grimly back in his chair and silently puffed his cigar. "This book about Ford," Perkins continued, "is one of the most interesting books I ever read."

"It will be worth while," said Perkins. "The 300th anniversary of his birth was celebrated in 1892, and the Commonwealth Society was then organized by educators to study and publish his works."

"Don't let Perkins make you think that this Ford book is nothing but an educational tract," said I. "Well, it's not much more," the professor insisted.

"I was talking with a publisher recently," said I, "who told me that the fiction which had appeared in book form has not been selling very well. The reason, however, was not that the public is not interested in novels, but that so many of the novel readers buy the magazines for the stories, that they do not buy the books."

Owen came in at this point with Professor Perkins, of the University. "Hello!" exclaimed the professor. "I see you are reading 'W. E. Beresford.' Great book, isn't it?"

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SECRET SERVICE DETECTIVE STORIES

Writers of "Thrillers" Are Just Now Cultivating This Fertile Field

It is morally certain that the detective story for the next few years will deal with the war and the activities of the Secret Service agents. An agent who is frustrating crimes against his country is the most gripping and exciting material for the ordinary police detective who tracks burglars and murderers to their undoing.

Louis Joseph Vance, writer of melodramatic novels, has been studying the psychology of this and is likely to profit by it through the wide sale of "The False Faces," his latest story. "The Lone Wolf" is known to Mr. Vance's admirers as the author of a series of detective stories from a criminal into a Secret Service agent in the employ of the Entente Allies, fighting the German Secret Service.

The series of adventures in which he played in his crimes served him in good stead. He appears first in the trenches of the French, to which he has crawled from the German lines. He proves his courage and devotion to the cause of the Allies. The ship is blown up off Martha's Vineyard after he has had an exciting series of adventures on its board.

Benet Conplleton's Secret Service officer in "The Lost Naval Papers," another book of war adventures, is a Scotchman named William Dawson. Benet Conplleton has written the series of adventures in which he played in his crimes served him in good stead.

Major Ian Hay Beth's second war book, "All in It," bids fair to rival in popularity "The First Hundred Thousand," which preceded it. It is a book in which the author, who is a man of full of cheerfulness and courage and determination to win. It is made up of descriptions of life in the trenches and of character sketches of typical fighting men.

There is a touch of the modern in Eleanor Atkinson's romance of the four frontiers, "Hearts Undaunted," for one cannot read her description of Fort Niagara when it was the guardian great hostile Indian tribes without thinking of its function today as a training camp for the men who will lead our soldiers in the present world war.

All women who are still emotionally at the age of sixteen will find Kate Langley Bather's "Kitty Canary" entering into their sympathies. Those whom the relentless calendar makes more than thirty years of age will find the book pleasantly reminiscent, and those who have lived only twenty years will find it a revelation.

The March Bookman's list of best-selling fiction in twenty-nine American cities follows: THE MAJOR, Cornell; THE DWELLING PLACE OF LIGHT, Chubb; THE CHANGING OBADIAD, Lincoln; THE LIFE OF TRAIL, Gene Grey; CHRISTINE, Chalmers; HIS LAST HOUR, Doyle.

The most popular six war books in the same cities are: OVER THE TOP, Emery; PRIVATE PEAT, Peat; FOR THE HONORABLE IN GERMAN, Gerard; ALL IN IT, Beth; CALIBUR, Dawson; FINDER FIRE, Fairbanks.

What the war means to you? In these war days, you will find infinite comfort, fun and inspiration in this new novel of the day and hour. It describes in a way which convulses the imagination, the life of a young man in a new family, when they found that America was not only at war, but "in" the war to the hilt, and proceeded, each in his own way, to do his part.

These are no more wholesome books to put in the hands of boys than those dealing with the European war as it affects Ireland. He also discusses Sinn Fein and the Easter Dublin revolution. George W. Russell's (A. E.) "Thoughts for a Convention," a war and peace book, is a collection of the principles underlying home rule, is reprinted in the volume. Finally comes Sir Horace Plunkett's "A Defense of the Convention." Sir Horace was the distinguished Irishman and member for chairman of the assembly, Ulster, Irish, English and American viewpoints are stated and argued in the book, which is not partisan.

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Automobile Touring

Those who wish to take pleasure tours in England or on the Continent must content themselves for the present with reading about the delights of such a way of spending leisure hours. Mr. Shackleton's "Touring Great Britain" will answer the purpose admirably for those who would like to know in advance about what can be done by advance booking in an automobile. Mr. Shackleton has described in his book five persons did and saw in the course of six weeks. Persons of moderate means will be curious to know something about the cost of such a method of seeing a country. Mr. Shackleton has fortunately told them. He found it cheaper to buy a new automobile in England than to ship one from this country.

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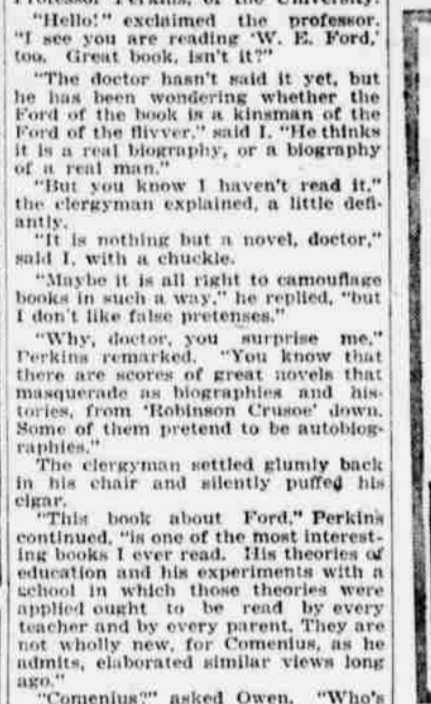
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J. D. BERESFORD

Easy French for Soldiers

Those soldiers who are about to go to France will find it difficult to learn the language in the few weeks which they have available. Many of them had a smattering of the language in high school and some of them learned to read it in an ordinary French course. It is not so easy to learn the language as it is in a short time.

Adventures of Lord Lewis

Lord Lewis was an Englishman of fortune with a fine taste in the things which adults talk about and consider. One who has mastered it will have a good working vocabulary of everyday French. The other, "La France, French Life and Ways," by G. G. Gillibron, is what its title indicates, an exposition in simple French of the manner of life of the people and a description of the principal points of interest in the statement of an enthusiastic traveler.

Directions for War Gardeners

The thousands of householders who started a garden for the first time last year are finding that there are many things which they do not know. They are ready now to read gardening books which will be of great help to them.

The Home Rule Convention

What the deliberations of the Irish Home Rule Convention will bring forth as a constructive basis of harmony in the Emerald Isle and a settlement of its most distressing problems is still an open question. A small book, "The Irish Home Rule Convention," covers from several standpoints the widely divergent issues that the assembly is endeavoring to come to an agreement upon.

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A German Attacks Germany

Americans now have an opportunity to satisfy their curiosity about the book which it was announced a year ago had been written by the Constantinople correspondent of the Cologne Zeitung and published in Switzerland. Geneva dispatched the book as the result of a dictation of German military methods and German aims, and the author, Dr. Harry Stuermer, was present at the time who had the courage of his convictions. Doctor Stuermer, who had lived many years in the German, French and English colonies in Africa, went home to Germany when the war broke out and served six months in the Russian front. He was discharged because of ill health. The book is now in the hands of the publisher.

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WHY did Bulgaria go into the war on the side of Germany?

These and many other questions that have perplexed the world are now answered by Demetra Vaka in the most sensational war book of the year—an amazing record gathered first-hand from kings, ministers and generals of the trail of intrigue and corruption that stretches down the center of Europe.